THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 2nd August 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT THE DEATH OF (1) SRI V. RANGASWAMY NAIDU AND (2) SRI GADDE RANGIAH NAIDU.

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is my painful duty to inform the House of the death on 1st June 1955 of Sri V. Rangaswami Naidu, who represented the Salem-*cum*-Coimbatore-*cum*-Nilgiris Local Authorities Constituency in the Madras Legislative Council and also of the death which occurred on 16th June 1955 of Sri Gadda Rangiah Naidu, who was a Member of the Legislative Assembly, during 1937–39. By way of expressing our sorrow and showing our respect for the departed souls, I request the Members to stand in their places in silence for two minutes."

(All the hon. Members stood in silence in their places for two minutes.)

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Ban on staging the drama " Valmiki Ramayana ".

* 1839 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Police prevented Messrs. M. R. Radha and party from staging the drama 'Valmiki Ramayana' on 28th August 1954, at Wall-Tax Theatre, Madras;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the script of the said drama was submitted to the Police authorities, sufficiently early, on 4th August 1954;

(*c*) the special reasons, if any, for issuing and serving the prohibitory order in the last moment;

(*d*) whether the Government scrutinized the script and found any objectionable matter therein;

(*e*) if so, when it was found out;

(*f*) whether any complaint was orally made to the Hon. the Chief Minister, by Mr. M. R. Radha, immediately afterwards; and

(*g*) if so, with what result?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A prohibitory order of Government was served on the parties on 28th August 1954; but the actual drama staged that night at the Wall-Tax Theatre, Madras, was entitled 'Ratha Kannir'.

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" (*b*) As the very brief gist sent on 4th August 1954 was meagre, a full synopsis of the drama was obtained by the Commissioner of Police on 23rd August 1954.

" (*c*) After a careful analysis and scrutiny of this synopsis, Government were addressed on 23rd August 1954 and orders were obtained.

" (*d*) & (*e*) The Commissioner's report disclosed that the drama contained objectionable matter and in view of the urgency, a prohibitory order was issued on 28th August 1954 on the basis of that report. The script was also subsequently obtained and scrutinized and objectionable passages were found in it.

" (*f*) & (*g*) Sri M. R. Radha orally represented to the Chief Minister that the police were taking action against his staging of ' Valmiki Ramayanam ' even without verifying whether it was objectionable or not. The Chief Minister told him that he would look into the matter."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know whether subsequently with the help of Sanskrit pandits, the original Valmiki Ramayana in Sanskrit was compared with the script submitted to the Government? If so, may I know when and with whose help the objectionable matter was found out as compared with the original Valmiki Ramayana in Sanskrit? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No such comparison was made, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Finance was telling that some portions of the drama were objectionable. What is the nature of the objectionable matter found out by the Government? Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give some little detail about it in the House? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it will take a long time to give all the objectionable matters contained in that drama. If, however, the hon. Member is interested, he may come to me and I shall hand over the script itself to him for his perusal."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the peerless and virtuous Sita of Valmiki Ramayana fame impugned in any way, Sir, by the dramatists? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That was the charge."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it the practice of the Police authorities to demand the script beforehand only from the individual concerned in the question or from other actors as well if their places in silence for two minutes."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whenever it is apprehended that they are really objectionable matters, the police are entitled to demand the script."

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SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" தோழர் எம். ஆர். ராதா அவர்கள் வால்மீகி இராமாயண விஷயமாக முதல் மந்திரி காமராஜ் அவர்களிடம் நேரில் சொன்னதற்கு அவர் இதுபற்றி கவனிப்பதாக பதில் சொன்னார்கள். அதன்பிறகு முதல் மந்திரி அவர்கள் வால்மீகி ராமாயணத்தைப் படித்தார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" வால்மீகி ராமாயணத்தைப் படிப்பதற்கு இப்பொழுது அவருக்கு நேரம் இல்லை. அவசரமான வேறுகாரியங்களை அவர் இப்பொழுது கவனிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது."

SRI T. SHANMUGAM :—" தோழர் எம். ஆர். ராதா அவர்கள் நமக்கு நடித்துக் காட்டிக் கொண்டிருந்த வால்மீகி ராமாயணத்தைப் பார்த்துக் களிக்கும் பாக்கியத்தை இங்கு இருக்கக் கூடிய மந்திரிகளில் ஒருவராவது அடைந்தார்களா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" அது கனம் மெம்பருக்கே விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை அவர்களே அனுபவிக்கலாம்."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM :—" சமஸ்கிருதத்திலுள்ள வால்மீகி ராமாயணத்தின் மொழி பெயர்ப்பையேதான் தோழர் எம். ஆர். ராதா அவர்கள் நடித்துக் காட்டிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். ஆகவே இந்த மொழி பெயர்ப்பில் ஆட்சேபகரமான அம்சங்கள் இருக்கின்றன என்று சொல்லி இதைத் தடை செய்தால் இதன் மூலமாகிய சமஸ்கிருத வால்மீகி ராமாயணத்தையும் ஏன் தடை செய்யவில்லை என்று அமைச்சர் கூற முன்வருவார்களா ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" இந்தக் கேள்வி இப்பொழுது எழவில்லை. இப்பொழுது கவனத்தில் இருக்கக் கூடிய விஷயம் எம். ஆர். ராதா நடித்துக் காட்டிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் ராமாயணத்தைப்பற்றியதுதான்."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, was there in that drama any caricature of puranic characters which was likely to wound the susceptibilities of a large section of the people? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That was one of the objectionable matters contained in that drama."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Sir, for the past one year there has been some disturbance whenever this drama was scheduled to be staged in several places in the State. The Hon. Minister said that nobody was consulted. That is, persons who are learned in Sanskrit were not consulted and they were not asked to point out whether the script contained any objectionable matter. The drama as such has not been banned by the Government authoritatively. Under such circumstances, is it not obligatory on the part of the Government as pointed out by our High Court also to prevent the unruly elements from creating disturbances in the places where the drama is staged? '

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The point is this. It does not matter whether a certain thing contained in the drama is found in the Sanskrit literature or script or not. Whether the matter is objectionable as such is the main question for consideration and the Government came to the conclusion that it was objectionable. Therefore the question put by the hon. Member does not arise at all."

SRI G. GOVINDAN :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, வட நாட்டாரைப் பின்பற்றி நடக்கக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லும் இந்தத் திராவிடர்கள் எதற்காக வால்மீகியால் எழுதப்பட்ட ராமாயணத்தைப் பின்பற்றி நாடகம் நடத்தவேண்டும் என்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் விளக்கம் கொடுக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" அதன் காரணமாகத்தான் அந்த ராமாயணத்தை இப்பொழுது நடத்துவது இல்லை என்று விட்டு விட்டார்கள்."

Cloth for Police uniform.

* 1840 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred by Government on the purchase of textile goods in the year 1953; and

(*b*) the extent of handloom cloth and khadi cloth purchased for Police uniform?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) An expenditure of Rs. 23,84,798 was incurred by the Government on the purchase of textile goods in 1953.

" (*b*) Eighteen thousand six hundred and sixty-eight pieces of handloom cloth costing Rs. 31,420–0–6 and 36 pieces of Khadi cloth costing Rs. 637–11–6 were purchased for police uniform, such as turban cloth, dhurris and overalls."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether the
11–10 a.m. retired Principal of the Government Textile Institute has recommended that cloth woven from mill yarn and also khadi may be woven into mixed cloth and used for police uniform and if so, whether the Government have taken any step in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information on this point."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" போலீஸ்காரர்களுக்கு கதர் வழங்கினால் அது சீக்கிரம் கிழிந்து விடுமென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். ஆதலால் அதற்குப் பதிலாக பூராவும் கைத்தறி ஆடையையே கொடுக்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" போலீஸ்காரர்களுக்கு இப்போது வழங்கும் துணிகள் எல்லாம் கதர் அல்ல."

Students selected for the Medical colleges in the City in 1952.

* 1841 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of students admitted in the Medical colleges of Madras City in the year 1952;

(*b*) how many of them belonged to Harijan communities and Backward classes; and

(*c*) how many of those in clause (*b*) were granted residential scholarships?